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CHARLESTOWN:
Preliminary Report.

By Josephine Chapple
January 1965

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Charlestown- Preliminary Report

Josephine Chapple
January 1965.

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Photographs and Maps accompany this text.

Introduction.

Charlestown was settled before Boston by a band of colonists who came in 1629 from Salem. Although some left in the following year to found Boston on the nearby Shawmut peninsula, the Charlestown settlement caught hold and began to grow, although slowly, so that by the Revolutionary War there were between ^{two} two and three thousand inhabitants.

As the Revolutionary War opened and the British were in control of Boston, and the harbor, two sites that overlooked and ~~thereby~~ commanded Boston harbor became the strategic points in this stage of the Revolutionary War- Dorchester Heights and Charlestown's Breed's Hill. General Gage warned that if any attempts ^{had} to fortify Charlestown took place ~~(then)~~ he would burn the town., so that on the day of the famous Battle of Bunker Hill, on June 17, 1775, not only did the British take the hill after severe losses, but they also set fire to the houses and public buildings of Charlestown by firing canons from Copp's Hill. The wind carried the fire down the peninsula from one building to another, until nearly the whole town was wiped out except for a few houses near ^{er} to the mainland. T

The architectural history of Charlestown therefore ^{and} dates from the late 1770s on the pattern of the town's rapid recovery and growth is evident in the styles of architecture. They ~~first~~ inhabitants started to rebuild

over the site of the original town, near the southwesterly tip of the peninsula. Although the houses were gone, familiar landmarks such as Town Hill; where Harvard Square is now located, and the Square at the foot of this hill where the center of town had been, as well as the training-field on the southern slopes of Breed's hill ~~were not destroyed~~ and the old Burying Ground. The rough outlines of the streets were still distinguishable, ~~were straightened out~~ and provided a framework for the returning inhabitants to build on.

The southern tip of Charlestown peninsula offers by far the most interesting architectural study, particularly from Bunker Hill Street and Pearl Street southwest to the Charles River. In this area the town first began to take root again in Post Revolutionary days, and then to grow and flourish in the Federal and Greek Revival periods.

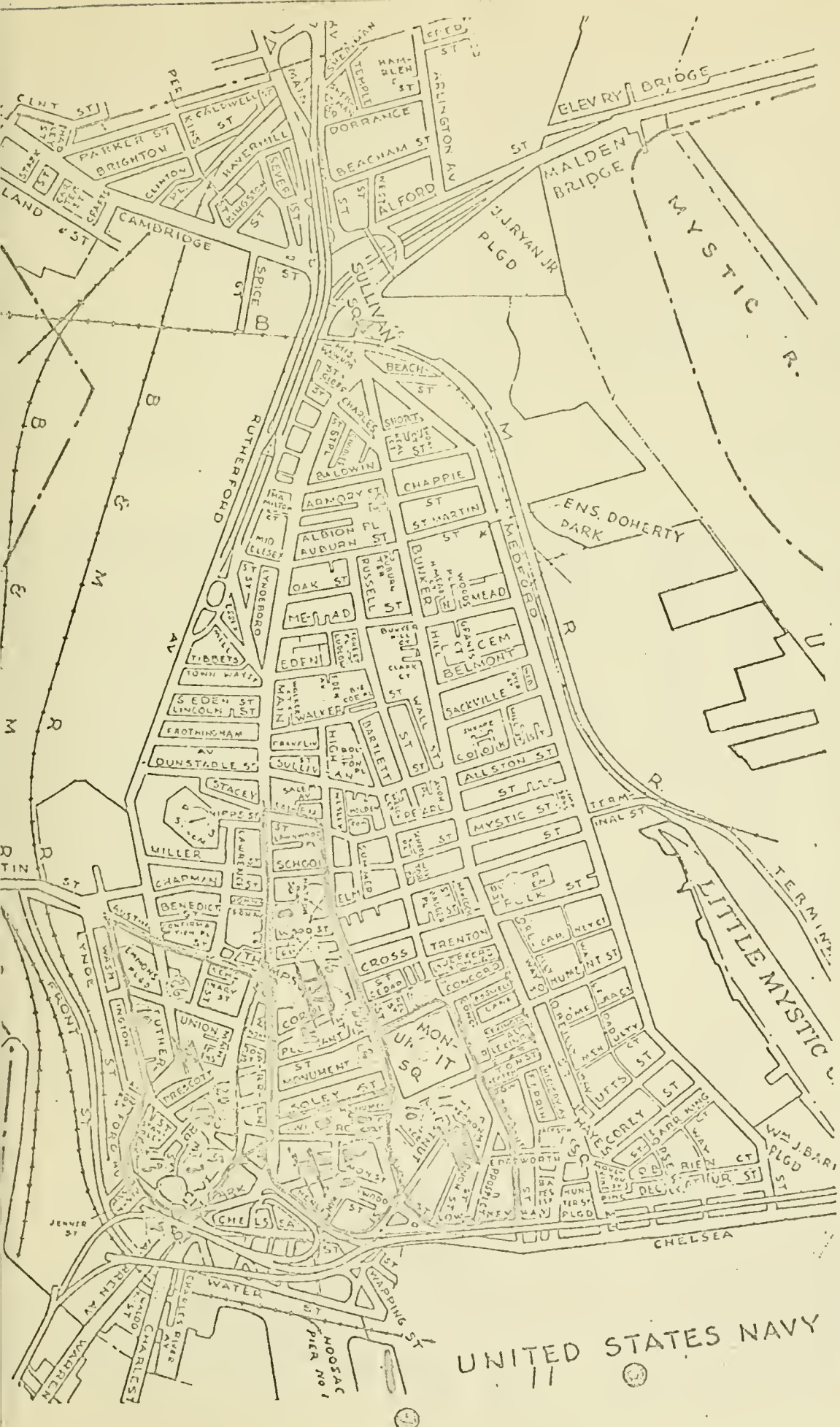
The contours of the land, plus a certain number of manmade focal points, provide an underlying organization for the study of this section of Charlestown. The first tour takes us along Main Street from Thompson Square to City Square and then up the old Town Hill to Harvard Square and then taking in the streets around the base of the hill. Within this section ^{are} ~~out~~ several grand old Post-Revolutionary mansions still surviving in a rather battered state, and a number of attractive Federal houses that continually are cropping up, but always separated by later building ^{that} ~~which~~ breaks up the historic consistency.

The second tour centers around Winthrop Square, which dates back to the 17th century as the old training field and which was one of the first areas to be rebuilt after the fire. Along the southern border of Winthrop Square, ^a an early post-Revolutionary inn and several Federal houses, along the other sides of the square are houses which reflect the process of development in the type of architectural style. This tour revolves solely around Winthrop Square.

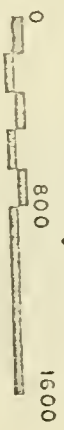
The third tour moves up the hill to Monument Square, and encompasses within it not only the borders of the square, but as well the side streets that radiated off the Square. This area generally is somewhat later in date to the sections around the base of the hill.

The fourth tour takes us up and down the hilly streets between Warren and Adams Street from Winthrop Square to Salem Street. On these side streets are a number of architecturally interesting buildings, ranging in styles from the Federal period to examples from the late Gothic Revival. Cordis Street with outstanding examples from the Federal and the Greek Revival period, is the highlight of this tour.

CHARLESTOWN



UNITED STATES NAVY



Sites of historic or other interest —

1. Bunker Hill Monument
2. Training Field (begun 1630)
3. John Harvard Hall
4. Phipps Street Burial Hill (begun c. 1640).
John Harvard Cemetery
5. Bunker Hill Cemetery
6. U. S. Navy Yard (established 1800)
7. U. S. Frigate Constitution
8. Birthplace of Samuel F. B. Morse.
195 Main St. Marked by white marble tablet.
9. William Arnold House (1805).
14 Common St.
10. Salem Turnpike Hotel (1810).
16 Common St.
11. George B. Neal House (1850).
now St. Mary's Rectory.
1 Monument Sq.
12. Peter Hubbel House (1847).
6 Monument Sq.
13. George Washington Warren House (1847).
7 Monument Sq.
14. Lynde A. Huntington House (1848).
8 Monument Sq.
15. F. N. Gilman House (1874).
22 Monument Sq.
16. Edward Everett House (1811).
16 Harvard St.
17. Dexter School (1785). 43-47 Harvard St.
(now Boston Ferry Co. building)
18. Charlestown Free Dispensary (c. 1800). built of stone from Outer Brewster Island and 27 Harvard St.
19. Samuel Dexter House (1795).
14 Green St.
20. New England Needlework Guild.
1 Adams St.
21. Samuel Jaques House (before 1800).
41 & 43 Washington St.
Visited by Lafayette, 1323.
22. Training Field Schoolhouse (1827).
655 Commonwealth St.
23. Bunker Hill Aurora building (c. 1800).
92-94 Main St.
24. Francis Hyde House (1801).
32 Cordis St.
25. Swallow Mansion (1854). 31 Cordis St.
26. Abraham Andrews House (c. 1814).
21 Cordis St.
27. John Doyle Graily Theater (repurposed by St Mary's Catholic Ch.
21 Washington St.
28. William Thompson House (1810).
55 Winthrop St.
29. Walter Balfour House, birthplace of Gen. Charles Devens, 30 Union St.

Public and other buildings

1. Charlestown Savings Bank.
1 Thompson Sq.
2. Charlestown Branch, Boston Public Library.
43 Monument Sq.
3. U. S. Post Office, 53 Main St.
4. Armory, 330 Bunker Hill St.
5. Boys' Club, 15 Green St.
6. Girls' Club, 60 High St.
7. Armed Services Y.M.C.A., City Sq.
8. Municipal Courthouse & Police Station, City Sq.
9. Charlestown High School.
30 Monument Sq.

MTA stations

Boston since 1874; but it existed independently for 245 years before its annexation and still preserves a sturdy identity of its own.

Charlestown's most famous and most striking landmark, the Bunker Hill Monument, not only commemorates an historic battle but in a sense symbolizes Charlestown's enduring vitality. Founded in 1628 and organized as a township two years later, Charlestown was almost totally destroyed by the British in 1775 and some 2,000 inhabitants were driven from the peninsula. Yet from devastation Charlestown was reborn to flourishing new life.

The popular Lafayette laid the cornerstone for the Bunker Hill Monument in 1825. When the finished structure was dedicated 18 years later, it overlooked a prosperous community that soon received its charter as a city, in 1847. Industries and wealth were multiplying; Charlestown's gardens, vineyards, and orchards were renowned; and the busy waterfront linked Charlestown with the commerce of all the world.

Shortly before the Civil War, the population had reached 25,000. The flood of immigration from Europe that began in the 'Seventies doubled this figure before the boom began to ease off.

War and peace, depression and prosperity, devastation and renewal, Charlestown has known them all in her nearly three-and-a-half centuries of life. Today, Charlestown continues to change; but as her people plan for the future, it is with an awakened interest in preserving the glories of a rich past.

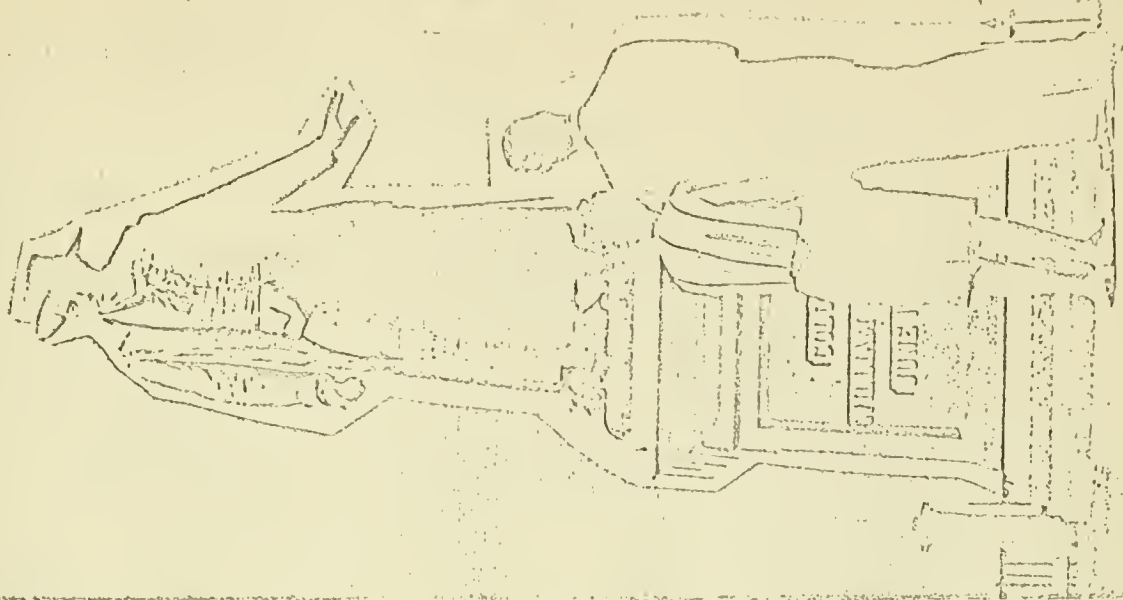
Compliments of

Charlestown
SAVINGS BANK



1 Thompson Square, Charlestown

"Founded in the Shadow of Bunker Hill in 1854"



CHARLESTOWN

principle

Main Street was one of the main thoroughfares in Colonial Charlestown, and continued as such, after the great fire of 1776. In the section between Thompson Square, many fine Post-Revolutionary mansions were located ^{some of which have survived} there, but, unfortunately, the growth of commercialism and the arrival of the elevated train in ^{the} have caused a general deterioration of this area.

Main Street

19 MAIN STREET.

A three-story, five-bay, hipped roof, wooden Federal house, placed end to street, and altered on the exterior by the addition of a store and the blocking up of windows. The small top windows, and pedimental doorway are vestiges of its early date. This house formerly belonged to the Benjamin Thompson, a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, 1848-52. In the nineteenth century it was considered to be one of the notable oblong wooden houses in town. If the structural framework is still sound, it would be worthy of restoration. Valuable to Area.

05 MAIN STREET

A three-story, four-bay ^{Pre-}Federal Clapboard building with hipped roof, and presently in very delapidated condition. Originally it was the Warren Tavern, and one of the first buildings "erected after the conflagration". Although once an attractive structure, now it is doubtful whether restoration is feasible or worthwhile. Worthy of Mention

02 MAIN STREET, corner of Harvard Street.

A handsome splitstone house, two-story and five-bay/. The

one has the photograph of that particular building.

splitstone and stone blocks used for the corner quoins was brought from the island of Outer Brewster by Nathaniel Austin. He had bought this island in 1799 and shortly thereafter erected his home. An unusual and attractive house, it now has fallen into a deplorable state, primarily as it is located directly beside the elevated train. The triangular facade serves to lead one up the hill towards Harvard Square as well as along Main Street. If the elevated were to be eliminated this building is well deserving of preservation and restoration.

VALUABLE TO AREA

65-71 MAIN STREET

The John Hurd Mansion. A large, three-story, five-bay, clapboard, Pre-Federal mansion located on the corner of Main Street and Monument Avenue. Built near the end of the 18th c. this massive block gives a faint hint at the original grandeur of the Main Street houses. If the elevated ~~were~~ ^{were} to be removed, and if the building still proves structurally sound, then restoration to its original appearance would be a worthy task, whereas in its present situation, little can be done to ~~pr~~ improve it. In fact, this is the case for all the buildings mentioned in this report that are located on Main Street.

VALUABLE TO AREA

55-61 MAIN STREET

Along side, stands another three-story, five-bay, hipped roof, Pre-Federal Mansion. It also has stores in its first floor, and is in arund-down condition, although somehow its modillion cornice has managed to survive. (It was in 1888 considered "one of the oldest wooden buildings now on it(Main Street)", and there are records that the lot was sold in 1783

to John Larkin. Given the same prerequisites as the above,
this house would be equally worthy of restoration.

RICHARD BOYLSTON

VALUABLE TO AREA

Harvard Square

27 Harvard Square originally was a semi circular court which surrounded the First Congregational Church, at the top of Town Hill off Harvard Street. This area is named after the colonial Charlestown resident who died in and left his money to the small college in Cambridge which then changed its name to Harvard. In 20th c., the First Congregational Church, built in 1817, and 9-13 City Square and 2-16 Main Street, were all torn down to form the John Harvard Mall, an open area extending from City Square to Harvard Street which unfortunately is fenced off from the surrounding buildings.

27 HARVARD SQUARE

A two-story, three-bay, row house, with a facade of split-stone, brought also from Outer Brewster. Built in the early 1800s, it was occupied the original site of the home estate of Increase Nowell who died in 1655. Originally a house, it was in 1814 the Charlestown Free Dispensary, but today it has again become a residence. It has a particularly advantageous site, located on the Square away from busy thoroughfares of this area.

Valuable to Area (1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89. 90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98. 99. 100. 101. 102. 103. 104. 105. 106. 107. 108. 109. 110. 111. 112. 113. 114. 115. 116. 117. 118. 119. 120. 121. 122. 123. 124. 125. 126. 127. 128. 129. 130. 131. 132. 133. 134. 135. 136. 137. 138. 139. 140. 141. 142. 143. 144. 145. 146. 147. 148. 149. 150. 151. 152. 153. 154. 155. 156. 157. 158. 159. 160. 161. 162. 163. 164. 165. 166. 167. 168. 169. 170. 171. 172. 173. 174. 175. 176. 177. 178. 179. 180. 181. 182. 183. 184. 185. 186. 187. 188. 189. 190. 191. 192. 193. 194. 195. 196. 197. 198. 199. 200. 201. 202. 203. 204. 205. 206. 207. 208. 209. 210. 211. 212. 213. 214. 215. 216. 217. 218. 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and one in late 18th c, this street extends from Harvard Street to the Navy Yard.

1 HENLEY STREET Street

A two-story, three bay, brick faced wooden rowhouse with an arched, federal entranceway in the gable end of the house which faces onto Henley Street. The brick band above the first floor, the top edge of the second story windows placed directly under the cornice, and the brickwork of headers every seventh row, point to a date of the late Federal period, probably around the late 1810s or early 1820s. Located next door to 27 Harvard Square, it too occupies the desirable location on Harvard Square, and adds considerable charm to this small area.

VALUABLE TO AREA

HARVARD STREET and HARVARD SQUARE

A three-story, four-bay, large brick block with straight stone lintels and hipped roof. In 1874 it was known as the Harvard Primary School, later changed to the Samuel Dexter School, and today, successfully renovated for the Boston Filter Co., Dow- Pierce inc. Its large scale, tall windows with straight lintels, and hipped roof ^{its} are evidences of ~~the~~ ^{not the} date of construction, 1847-48. (~~dispute~~ incorrect attribution of 1786)

VALUABLE TO AREA

Harvard Street

Harvard Street links Main Street to City square by going over the top of Town Hill, and was originally called Town Hill Street. Colonial Records show that Harvard Street, ^{with} ~~xx~~ most of the others in ~~this~~ ^{the Town Hill} area, were important streets of this period and their pattern was continued after the great fire of June 17th 1776.

16 HARVARD STREET

7 16 HARVARD STREET

✓ A three-story, five-bay, Federal brick, freestanding house. Its early style may be identified by the use of a fanlight doorway (with later porch), the Flemish-bond brick, flared lintels, and diminutive top windows. It was built in the early 1800s by Mathew Bridge, and later became the home of Governor Edward Everett in 1836-40. The side lot was a large and pleasant yard, which unfortunately now houses a gasoline station. However, the mansion itself stands ^{as} a handsome survival of the early Federal period in an area rich in historic buildings, and ~~efforts~~ should without question be preserved.

VALUABLE TO CITY

7-23 HARVARD STREET

A curved row of three-story, three-bay, brick Greek Revival row houses. Typical of this period is the flat facade, straight lintels, enlarged second story windows, and pitched roof. The land belonged to the Parish (First Congregational Church) until 1835, having been bequeathed in 1703 by Richard Sprague. This row was built up ^{in 1835-1836} shortly after the land was free for individual purchase, VALUABLE TO AREA / CITY and constitutes the longest block of rowhousing that had yet been built in Charlestown.

18-20 HARVARD STREET, 1-4 HARVARD PLACE, and 22-24 HARVARD STREET

A group of eight brick rowhouses, each three-story, ^{of Italianate} - bay, that were built by Moses A Dow in the 18 s, over the site of the large estate belonging to Mr. Bridge, considered in Colonial times as one of the three handsomest old places in the lower part of town. These rowhouses, although fairly typical of their period, contribute to the general effect of a nineteenth century, brick rowhouse, neighborhood which is found so often in Boston Proper.

VALUABLE TO AREA

28 HARVARD STREET

A large, three-story, -bay, brick house, originally with a side garden, built also by Moses A. Dow about 1865.

VALUABLE TO AREA

30-3² HARVARD STREET and 2 WASHINGTON STREET

A row of three-story, -bay, bow fronted ^{Greek Revival} brick row houses built up during the 1850s, again replacing wooden structures of the late 18th c.

VALUABLE TO AREA

34-38 HARVARD STREET

Italianate

A row of three ^A brick row houses, each three-story, and -bay, facing the John Harvard Mall. These also were built by Moses A. Dow about

VALUABLE TO AREA

42-48 HARVARD STREET

A row of four bow-fronted brick row houses, each three story and th -bay, which stand opposite the old Harvard Primary School. These houses, as well as the above, derive ^{1r} the value by mainly from the close proximity to one another, which creates a consistent and attractive neighborhood.

VALUABLE TO AREA

50-60 HARVARD STREET

50-

Georgian Revival

52-54

Greek Revival

58-60

Georgian Revival

Value comes only from location in area, not

Washington Street

Washington Street leads from Harvard Square to the Austin Street and the bridge to Cambridge, ~~which~~ built around 1810. At its foot, was located the Charlestown State Prison, built 1804-05, and at the corner of Union²⁹ street, now is situated the Rutherford Ave. Playground which has replaced several houses as well as the first Catholic church in Charlestown, St. Mary's built in 1822. Unfortunately Washington²⁹ Street has generally fallen into decay primarily because of its proximity to the railroad yards, and only one building warrants attention.

41-43 WASHINGTON STREET

A three-story, four-bay, clapboard freestanding mansion, five-bays deep and decorated with corner quoins. Altered today by the addition of back porches, and double entranceway, evidences of its early date and grandeur may be seen in the cornice work, the hipped roof and corner quoins. It ^{was} ~~is thought to be~~ the mansion of Samuel Jacques, built before 1800, ^{by Michel} but unfortunately today has fallen into poor condition, as has most of this area. It belongs to the select group of Federal mansions which have survived the vicissitudes of the 19th and 20th c. and thus offers a worthwhile opportunity for preservation and renovation, providing the building proves to be structurally sound.

VALUABLE TO AREA

Washington Terrace

Washington Terrace, runs off Washington Street between Rutherford Avenue and Harvard Street, ^{nearly opposite Prescott Street} and serves primarily as an entranceway to ~~the~~ a wooden house set back, from the street, the only house on Washington Terrace.

1 WASHINGTON TERRACE

✓ 1 WASHINGTON TERRACE

Pre -
A three-story, five-bay, wooden Federal house. Although alterations may be seen in the additional third story, and the tar shingle covering, the true Federal character comes through in the proportions and the exquisite pedimental wooden doorway, and some interior woodwork. Although presently not in particularly good condition, its surviving Federal elements as well as its proximity to Harvard Square, would make it worthy of preservation.

VALUABLE TO AREA

Prescott Street

Changed from the name of Middlegate Street to Prescott Street in 1836, This street existed in ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ the early rebuilding of the town after the Revolutionary War, and probably was laid out in Colonial days.

✓ 23 PRESCOTT STREET

A two-story, one- bay five- bay wooden Pre-Federal house, with gambrel roof and sitting end to street. Its roofline and its small size reflect a late 18th c. date, and if preserved and resotred, it would add another historical link with the past in this small area of Town Hill. It appears to be well kept up, although now has a layer of shingles.

VALUABLE TO AREA

✓ 1 PRESCOTT STREET

A three-story, five-bay, red brick Federal house, located on the wedge-shaped lot at the intersection of Prescott and Devens Streets. This Federal house, appears to be in good condition and is defintiely an asset to the area.

VALUABLE TO AREA

DEVENS Street

Bow Street, as it was known before 1882, was laid out as early as 1670, and is described as the following;"from City Square across Rope or Rope-maker's lane (later Arrow street, now part of Washington street) to Town Hill(now Harvard) street at junction with Main street, being semi-circular in form". The section changed to Devens street runs from Main Street to the present Rutherford Avenue(formerly Richmond Street).

DEVENS STREET corner RUTHERFORD AVENUE

St. John's Church. A brick Gothic Revival church, faced with a dark granito ashlar, and marked with a heavy square tower crowned with a battlement. It was built in 1841 and a wooden chaepl designed by Ware and Van Brunt, was added in 1873.

VALUABLE TO AREA

20 DEVENS STREET

Harvard School. A three-story, ^{seven} ~~five~~-bay, brick Revival school building. Built in 1871, the schoolhouse well reflects this era, by the use of found headed windows, contrasting granite trim on a brick facade and a protruding frontispiece. It was designed by the architect, S.J.F. Thayer, a popular Back Bay architect.

VALUABLE TO AREA

Rutherford Avenue

Formerly called Richmond Street, it was laid out from Bow Street to Union Street in 1813, and from Union Street to Austin Street in 1824. On this street was located the first Catholic Church, St. Mary's, of 1829, as well as ~~other~~ old houses, but only a couple are standing today.

117 RUTHERFORD AVENUE

A small, two-story, five-bay wooden Federal house, with

hipped roof, and end to street. As this makes the fourth Federal house within a block (Union Street), a realistic opportunity for historic preservation is offered here. ✓

VALUABLE TO AREA

Union Street

Union Street from Main Street to Washington Street was officially accepted in 1813 and even today can boast of having four houses of the Federal period still standing.

✓ 19-21 UNION STREET

15. A double, Federal house, back-to-back, two-story and two-bay each, set with gable end to street. #21 shows a Federal, five-bay facade, with fanlight doorway, and sloping gambrel roof while # 19 has a definitely straight pitched roof, which creates an unusual effect in a double house.

VALUABLE TO AREA

✓ 30 Union Street

1. A tall, narrow, three-story, five-bay wooden Federal house, located at the corner of Union and Lawrence streets. The fanlight doorway and brick ends are typical features of this period. It is known as the Walter Balfour house. Across the street on the opposite corner of Union and Lawrence streets stood the Greek Revival Female Seminary built in 1834.

Valuable to Area

✓ 31 UNION STREET

1/16 A three-story, five-bay Federal brick house, situated on the corner of Union Street and Rutherford Avenue. The plan actually is a five sided to accommodate for its corner lot. Although the doorway may have been altered, the proportions of the house, the diminutive third story windows, and the hipped roof, are all features of the Federal Style.

These buildings form a pocket of Federal homes and should be

considered for preservation as a group.

VALUABLE TO AREA

Austin Street

Parallel to Union Street, Austin Street connects the Cambridge bridge directly with Thompson Square. Although it was officially accepted in 1817 as a public highway, it probably existed previous to that date, from indications of some of the surviving architectural styles.

9-11 AUSTIN STREET

A tiny, two-story, three-bay, gambrel roof, wooden house, built probably in the late 18th c. Fortunately this little house has been renovated and hopefully will be left alone, despite its proximity to the busy Thompson Square,

VALUABLE TO AREA

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH. AUSTIN, LAWRENCE, and SEMINARY STREETS

A brick, longitudinal church,, facing on Lawrence Street. Built in 1843, it is fashioned in a unique architectural style relying mostly on Italian sources, yet combined into a striking and individualistic design. Although the surface is devoid of any contrasting stone decoration, it is subtly modulated by the texture of the unusually small, carefully laid bricks, and by the variation in planes of the brick surface, notably the set-in, arched panels around windows and on the steeple. It has a subtlety and simplicity that becomes lost in churches of a later date. Presently,

Demolished
by
BRA

VALUABLE TO CITY

the life of this church is in danger, as the building itself is too large for the congregation, some adjustments must be made, or some other use must be found for it.

33-37 AUSTIN STREET

5
33-37 AUSTIN STREET

a double, frame, Federal house

Worthy of Mention

37 AUSTIN STREET

A two-story, five-bay, end to street, Federal wooden house. Located in the neighborhood of the First Baptist Church, it remains one of the few vestiges of the early 19th c. on a street where the late 19th c. octagonal bay, rowhousing has taken over.

VALUABLE TO AREA on W of M.

41-43 AUSTIN STREET

a double, frame, Federal house,

two-story,

This closes the tour marked off as the Town Hill Area.

It has proved to be a particularly interesting area, partly because this was the center of the Colonial town (City Square) and also the early rebuilding after Revolutionary War.

Although no public buildings have survived from this early period, several houses along Main Street, as well as some smaller houses scattered around the bottom of the hill have weathered

the vicissitudes of the time, and are close enough together and a large enough number, to give a

picture of the early 19th c. town, and thereby warrant historic preservation. The two public buildings that have been

preserved are the Gothic Revival church of St. John's, and the Italian Revival church of the First Baptists. A third

dating from the first half of the 19th c. is the Greek Revival school on Harvard Square, now very successfully transformed

into a commercial building, whereas the Harvard School on
Rutherford and Devens Street of the 1870s Gothic Revival
style, still continues in use as a school. The 20th c. has
seen little building in this area, but unfortunately has
witnessed the tearing down of the First Congregstional Church
on Harvard Square, and St. Mary's Church on Rutherford Ave.
The area as a whole, may be characterized as a section which
grew up in the first half of the 19thc, incorporating a few
late 18th c. buildings^{within} a number of Greek Federal houses,
scattered around, and ^{a few} rows of Greek Revival ~~row~~houses (which
line Harvard Street and fill in other places). The section
towards the west has fill-ins of the late 19thc. wooden, octagonal
bay tenement houses which detract ^{from} the effect of the area.
City Square, the center of the Colonial town, has absolutely
nothing of historic interest left, and in fact, has turned
into mostly a congested traffic area. Yet the Town Hill area
does offer a worthwhile section to bring back and restore
to its earlier appearance, particularly if the elevated train
could be eliminated.

Winthrop Square

Winthrop square and the surrounding area proves to be an interesting architectural, as well as urban design, study. The Square or open area dates back to the first settlement village of the town of Charlestown, as it was set aside as the Training-Field as early as 1630. During the 17th and 18thc. it continued in its original use, with the surrounding land mostly set aside as pasturage. In the actual Battle of Bunker Hill, the Training-Field was behind the British line of battle under Pigot, ^{when} ~~as~~ ^{British} they assaulted the patriot's redoubt situated at the top of Breed's Hill, where the monument is now located. It is, however, in the Training-Field, or "inthrop Square, where the Memorial Tablets to the fallen soldiers, have been placed, in preference to inscribing the names of the soldiers on the sheer white ^{granite} surface of the Bunker Hill Monument. Erected soon after the completion of the Bunker Hill Monument, these tablets serve as a link with the larger Monument Square, and ^{thus become} ~~serve as~~ the basis for the Boston National Historic Sites Commission ^{is proposal for} ~~of~~ establishing a visual connection between these two squares by opening up Adams Street. Its present appearance, however, is still very effective ^{for} ~~because~~, although ~~you the Square itself is not visible~~, the tall shaft of the monument can easily be seen ^{from} ~~from~~ Winthrop Square.

The open square has proved ^{also} to be a successful urban design element. Firstly, the size works well as it is large enough to provide open space ^{for} the great number of school children to come and play, and yet it is ~~xxxxxxlarge~~ ^{small enough} that the sides of the square operate within a visual relationship with each other, a factor which does not exist in the larger Monument Square.

The shape of the Square reflects its haphazard growth which continued through much of the nineteenth century.

The architectural styles show that the first side to be built up was the eastern boundary with the ^{freestanding W. houses} buildings of 12-26 Common

Street dating from the late 18th c. to the early 19th c. The

^{South -} south side of the square has two Greek Revival structures, (1828) ^{North -}

1-2 Common Street and the Schoolhouse, while the west side

of "inthrop Street, may have had scattered buildings from the

early period, but only #56 has survived the later 19th c.

^{evidenced by #34-44.} building/ activity/ The north side, or the Adams Street facade, ^{-east} consistent line ^{row}

shows a ~~row~~ of late Greek Revival brick/houses, built up around

the 1850s, to provide a solid brick wall across the uphill

side of the square. This evolution has produced a square ,

interesting in its architectural variety, as well as pleasing

and useful as an urban space. Without question, this square is

the most popular place for mothers to bring their small children

to play. The buildings fronting this square may all be considered

Valuable to Area, except the particularly older and rarer ones

on the ^{South -} Eastern side which may be rated Valuable to City.

1-2 COMMON STREET

A double, two-story, two-bay each, wooden Greek Revival house. This small residence is characterized by its diminutive scale and steeply pitched roof and offers a valuable opportunity to restore it to its original appearance. VALUABLE TO AREA
SCHOOLHOUSE.

A three-story, three- by -bay, Brick Greek Revival schoolhouse placed gable end to street. Once the town's public school known as the Training-Field School, Common Street school, it is now used as a parochial school. The building was constructed in 1828, and has the Greek Revival pedimental gable. VALUABLE TO CITY

12-14 Common Street. The Arnold Mansion.

✓ Built in c. 1805, this house still stands as an extremely fine example of the Federal wooden house, with the standard three-story, five-bay proportions. Fortunately it has been recently restored and is a handsome addition to the Square. The two ~~wind~~-story wing has its own entrance and has been used as a separate living area. VALUABLE TO CITY

Common Street (to be put before 1-2 Common ST)

Although Common Street was not named officially until 1831, certainly there must have been some sort of roadway to service the late 18th c and early 19th c. located on this street. It bounds Winthrop Square on the southeast and southwest sides, and runs from Winthrop Street to Adams Street.

Park Street

Park Street was not laid out its entire length from City Square to Winthrop Square until 1868, the same year the name was changed from Warren Street to Park Street. However, the section near Winthrop Square has a couple of Greek Revival and Federal buildings and thus, there must have been some connecting way from ~~the Winthrop Square~~ ^{Training-Field} down to Back Street (Warren Street) in the rebuilding of the town.

55 PARK STREET

✓ A three-story, five-bay, wooden Federal house. It is the next-door neighbor of 12-14 Common Street, and closely resembles it in form, although this building as yet has not been restored. The house appears well kept up, but the walls are covered with tar paper shingle and the entrance has an aluminium overhanging porch roof. The house occupies a desirable location of Winthrop Square, near a group of Federal houses. It definitely merits

restoration which would increase its present evaluation.

VALUABLE TO AREA

51 PARK STREET

A three-story, five-bay, wooden house, closely resembling its neighbor, # 55, but probably of a later date. The same general effect of a flat, tall rectangular building, placed directly on the street, ~~xxxxx~~ is repeated here, but the roof of # 51 is flat, not hipped, and the third story is raised to a full height. This building, too, as is the case of its neighbors, certainly is worthy of preservation. This small section of Park Street would offer, if restored, an effective, and historic entranceway into the old Training-Field.

VALUABLE TO AREA

47-49 PARK STREET

A double, Greek Revival house, each three-bay and two-story, Although with a lower pitched roof, and built a few decades later than its neighbors, this double house fits in well to the group of second quarter 19th c. houses, which represents the second major stage of building around the Square.

VALUABLE TO AREA

52-54 PARK STREET

Across from the above, a two-story, six -bay deep Federal house, placed end to street. Although severly altered with rearranged windows and tar paper shingling, ~~this~~ it still retains its Federal proportions. Its proximity to Winthrop Square increases its value and makes it worthy of preservation.

WORTHY OF MENTION

Putnam Street

Putnam Street runs into Winthrop Square on the south east side, from Henley Street. It was officially accepted as a public highway in 1822 when it was described as the road from the turnpike to the houses of Robbins and Tapley. Today the Mystic River Bridge ramp runs along at the foot and unfortunately a Federal house which was located there has been destroyed. Now only these following two houses have survived.

5 PUTNAM STREET

A three-story, five-bay, Federal clapboard house with brick ends and hipped roof. Presently isolated by the elevated highway and vacant lots, it stands as a handsome Federal mansion, just down ^{-this} short street from Winthrop Square. Certain methods of renovation, such as landscaping the parking lots, and providing some type of barrier from the highway, could reestablish this house as an important Federal survivor.

VALUABLE TO AREA

19 PUTNAM STREET

A characteristically two-story, five-bay, Federal house. Situated on the corner of Putnam Street and Common Street, it is connected with the old Salem Turnpike Hotel at 16 Common Street by a continuous facade and roofline. This building may well have been constructed at the time of its neighbor, or may have been added later, but the date would be around late 18th c. or early 19th c.. Although not at the moment restored, it offers an ideal opportunity as the factors are all favorable; located directly on Winthrop Square in the midst of a cluster of Federal buildings. and when restored, ~~its~~ ^{its} rating would be raised.

VALUABLE TO AREA

16 COMMON STREET

V A six-bay, two-story, Pre-Federal wooden building. Its steeply hipped roof runs continuous with #19 Putnam Street, and a small one story wing is added onto its northern end. Built sometime around the 1780s, shortly after the rebuilding of the town had begun, this structure was at one time the Salem Turnpike Hotel. Fortunately, it is now being restored and it still may be described as one of "the most distinguished wooden residences in the style of the later 18th c. anywhere within our city limits". VALUABLE TO CITY

22 COMMON STREET

V A two-story, five-bay, Federal wooden house, placed end to street. This early 19th c. home has brick ends, as do many wooden houses built in this period. The use of side or end walls of brick in wooden/^{residential} structures was prescribed by law from the beginning of the 19th c. on, as the citizens of Charlestown had experienced only too recently, on June 17, 1776, the complete destruction of their city by fire during the Battle of Bunker Hill. This house, although not of any unusual character, is highly ^{historic} rated by its location with its ~~own~~ neighbors on the Square. VALUABLE TO CITY / AREA?

26 COMMON STREET

early?
J A small, two-story, three-bay, late 18th c. house, now remodeled into a store on the first floor. This diminutive structure, with a gambrel roof, almost square in shape, recalls a style highly prevalent in its period, but which has been vanishing at such a high rate that only a few, isolated examples still exist. (9-11 Austin Street, 21 Pleasant Street)

For the same reasons this house is highly rated. VALUABLE to CITY

Ellwood Street

Ellwood Street was officially changed from Mechanic Street in 1887. The original date of this dead-end court off Putnam Street is not given, but the 17-19 represent the early 19th c. The houses are small, and the street appears to be a back alley for the larger houses on Common Street, as it runs directly behind and parallel to Common Street.

17-19 Ellwood Street.

✓ Two late Federal Brick rowhouses, each two-story and three-bay. These two houses, which closely resemble ^{some in} the South Cove of the 1830s, appear to be an ^{earlier} ^{brick} example of rowhousing than the # 6-7 Monument Square which is reputed to be the earliest ^{brick} example of rowhousing in Charlestown. These two houses, recently restored, tie in effectively to the stylistic development around Winthrop Square.

VALUABLE TO AREA

Adams Street

Adams Street begins at the northern corner of Winthrop Square and runs along its north east boundary and then curves down to Chelsea Street. Apparently this way existed as early as 1797, when it was recorded as ^{the} the old way from the Training-Field to Mr. Breed's "dam pasture" before the Salem turnpike came into existence (Chelsea Street). It was not until 1848 that it was officially laid out and the boundaries were defined.

1-13 Adams Street

A series of thirteen brick rowhouses, predominantly three-four-story and three-bay, with flat facades. This continuous wall of red brick forms the northern enclosure for Winthrop Square. It is a particularly advantageous site, as the open

square serves not only as an attractive setting, but also as an interesting spacial composition. The square has not^{arrived at} right angles, but rather ~~xxxxformed~~ its irregular shape by gradual evolution, ~~ratherxxxxthe~~ instead of imposing a formal square on the open land as happened in Monument Square. These rowhouses built shortly after the street was laid out in 1848, were designed in the late Greek Revival style^{with some later alterations,} with flat facades and pitched roof,^{and} add a strong mid-century note to the mixture of styles that line the Square.

VALUABLE TO AREA

Winthrop Street

Winthrop Street, or Training-Field Street as it was known before 1836, runs from Warren Street (Back Street) past Winthrop Square to Monument Square. It ^{was} ~~is~~ officially registered in 1804, although no doubt, a connection between Warren Avenue and the Training-Field existed long before that. A view in 1848 shows some small freestanding houses standing on the upper part of the street facing the Square, ^{and} ~~at~~ some larger buildings (at the foot) which have been since replaced by St Mary's Catholic Church in 1887-88.

56 WINTHROP STREET

✓ A two-story, five-bay Federal, free standing house with pitched roof and gable-end to street. The only one of these rural houses to survive on Winthrop Street, it now stands between larger brick rowhouses, and the later Parish House of St. Mary's. Although the doorway has been altered, and shingles have been added, this little house still preserves its Federal character and is worthy of preservation. VALUABLE TO AREA

34-44 WINTHROP STREET

A row of ^{transitional Greek Revival - Italianate} -story, -bay, brick rowhouses. This group appears to take its ^{chronological} historical position ^{in the development of Winthrop S} sometime soon after the Adams street row, and is the latest row to border Winthrop Square.

VALUABLE TO AREA

Corner of WINTHROP STREET and WARREN STREET

St. Mary's Catholic Church. A massive, brick, late Gothic Revival church, built in 1887-88. It faces onto Warren Street, but it does tie in with Catholic School and Parish House on Winthrop Square.

VALUABLE TO AREA.

Monument Square

The third section under study is the Monument Square area. Included in this section are the ~~xxx~~ houses bordering on the square, and those streets that run off from the square-Cedar Street, Chestnut Street, Mt Vernon Avenue and Street, Tremont Street, and Concord Street.

The designing and planning of Monument Square stands in complete opposition to that of Winthrop Square, As Winthrop Square took its form from the casual growth over a long period of time, Monument Square was conceived and laid out ~~an~~ all at one time, in a formal and symmetrical scheme. It is literally a square, 400' on each side, and was first laid out in 1839, when an auction was held to sell the lots. Its primary purpose was to serve as a setting for the Bunker Hill Monument, ^{which was} begun in 1826, but, due to financial difficulties, ^{that} which were alleviated by the sale of ^{these} lots, ^{was} not finished until 1843, and ^{its} this purpose is served well. The rigid formality of the square corresponds

to the dignity and formality of the granite obelisk, while
the vast size of the ^{open} ~~square~~ space supports effectively the
unprecedented height of the monument, which rises 221'.

The Bunker Hill Monument itself, was designed by Solomon
Willard in the ancient obelisk form, and it has since served
as a prototype for the Washington Monument and many others.
Built from 182³~~3~~-1843, it stands a full expression of the
Greek Revival Style-in scale, in simplicity and purity of form,
and in the massiveness and strength of the ^{hammered} ~~granite~~ which previously rare
of granite led to the development of ^{mining} ~~quarrying~~ the Quincy granite
quarry, and to the invention of ~~the~~ a railroad to transport
this heavy stone, ^{by Gridley Bryant these changes} ~~which~~ in turn, made this material accessible ^{on the open}
and opened a whole new building activity/~~in the~~ so-called
native Granite Style (see Waterfront Report), used particularly
in public and waterfront buildings. The monument stands over
the location of the patriots Redoubt in the famous battle
on June 17, 1776, which the British in actuality won, but
which caused them to suffer such severe losses, as well as causing both
to recognize the ^{unexpected} ~~military~~ ability and courage of the revolutionists,
that it has been long considered a turning point in the war
^{in favor of} ~~for~~ the Colonies. Although the battle was actually fought on
Breed's Hill, ^{rather than which} ~~Bunker Hill~~ stands a short distance to the
north, the ~~name~~ ^{and misnomer} was probably circulated by British who were
nor familiar with the local terms. Historically, ^{on this site} there are two different
~~events~~ ^{events} invoked; the heroic battle of the patriots of 1776,
and the monumetal conception of their descendents 50 years later.

Bunker Hill Square, in terms of urban design, achieves little
of the success of Winthrop Square. It does not play an active

an active role in the life of the city, but rather stands apart, as a place visited mostly by tourists. The dimensions of the square are so large, and the rise of the hill high enough, that little visual relationship exists from one side of the square to the other. The ~~monumental thinking~~ thinking in the Greek Revival Period, here in city planning, as well as in architecture, emphasized the large, the monumental, the grand, with little concern for human scale. ~~The sole purpose of this square and monument~~ ^{was} to strongly impress on the generations that ^{ed} follow, the greatness of this moment in history.

It was not an attempt to be an urban square, nor was it an attempt to ^{be a} ^{ion of} vividly recreate the scene of the battle.

1-2 MONUMENT SQUARE

#1 was built by George B. Neal in 1850, and #2 by A. Brown in 1853

4-5 MONUMENT SQUARE

#4 was built by William Carlton in 1861-62, #5 by James Lee in 18

6-7 MONUMENT SQUARE

Three-story, three-bay, red brick, bow fronted Greek Revival rowhouses. Built by 1848, these houses were the first ones constructed after Monument Square was officially laid out in 1839. Fortunately their original appearance, even the iron work detail, has survived and they stand today, as two of the handsomest residences on the Square. ~~Although the house lots~~

Peter Hubbell owned #6 VALUABLE TO CITY
and George W. Warren #7.

8 MONUMENT SQUARE

no photo

It was ~~also~~ built in 1847-48, by L. A. Huntington.

9, 9A, 10 11, 12, 13, 14 MONUMENT SQUARE

Brickrowhouses, between Chestnut and Tremont Street,

no photo

Particularly noteworthy is the collective facade of #10-13, ^{of Italianate design} except #11 which has ^{since} been redesigned in the Romanesque style.
#9 built in 1840, #9A built by Richard Frothingham and #10-13 built by J. S. Small (1857-1858)
Northeast side of Monument Square

15-21 MONUMENT SQUARE

This whole row is Italianate, in style, except for #16 which is Revival and was the first house built on the North side of Square by Dr. Wm Gorton for his daughter Mrs. Bodington
22-28 MONUMENT SQUARE

#22, a late Queen Anne Revival, and # 25-28, an outstanding row of Italianate facades.
#23 & 24 not built until 1886 and were designed in Georgian Revival style

Northwest side of Monument Square

#29 Monument Sq.
Charlestown High School

31-36 Monument Square.

Designed in a variety of styles, they range from Gothic Revival (#31, 32,) Romanesque (#33), and Georgian Revival (#34, 34A, 35, 36)

South West Side of Monument Square. Only this side has some frame bldg:

37 MONUMENT SQUARE A double ^{wooden} house, situated back to back, with
38 brick dividing wall. This lot is supposed to have gone for
highest amount of money,
39-42 MONUMENT SQUARE

43 MONUMENT SQUARE

Charlestown Public Library.

It replaces the brick mansion of Capt. J. B. Thomas, which was
"the most expensive, as well as the most elaborately furnished, brick

46 MONUMENT SQUARE house ever on the peninsula" p 98

A freestanding^g wooden, Italianate house.

47 MONUMENT SQUARE

A two-story wooden house with gambrel, dating possibly from the late 18th c.

is interesting to note that two houses (37 + 47) were laid out
from period, long before Monument Square was laid out.
However, the south west side of the Square did exist as High Street
48-49 MONUMENT SQUARE running from the Training-Field to Baptist Church
in front the Warren Statue.

Two brick Italianate bowfronted row houses.

#49 has a stone facade, the only one facing the Square,
except for High School.

50 MONUMENT SQUARE

Large freestanding brick mansion, -story and -bay.

It was designed in the Italianate style.

slope

On the south east side of Breed's Hill, several streets
were laid out parallel to the Square: Chestnut Street, Mt.
Vernon Street and Prospect street.

Chestnut Street

Chestnut Street, which at the top turns the corner and
runs into Monument Square, was shown but not named on the

Monument Square Plan of 1839. The upper side of the street

still has some Greek Revival wooden house, built probably in the 1840s, but the consistency of this street has been destroyed by now vacant gaps, by later building, such as the school at #27, and by intermingling ^{of} ~~many~~ styles. It has not preserved ~~an~~ as ~~an~~ attractive appearance as the parallel Mt. Vernon Street. That the streets were named after those on Beacon Hill, indicates that the potentialities of this site were recognized and another Beacon Hill was hoped for. Unfortunately the growth of this area ~~was not~~ lagged long enough to be caught ^{by} ~~up~~ in the late 19th c. suburban sprawl, where the familiar three decker wooden tenements sprang up all over, and encroaching on the older areas, and breaking up their unity. Only the lower parts of Chestnut and Mt Vernon Streets were affected, but Prospect Street was almost entirely built up at that time, ^{which is the} ~~and this~~ street ^{that} has fared worse than the others.

55, 63, 59 CHESTNUT STREET

A group of ^{three} frame Greek Revival houses, two-story, gable- placed end to street and separated by side yards. ^{They were built by the end of the} Wm 1840s

54+58, Two frame Greek Revival houses, two-story, three-bay, across street. Similarly they are freestanding and are placed end to street. Built by late 1840s. Wm

46-48 A double G. R. house, each story - bay. This house is ornamented w. unusual ^{carpenter's} detail. Wm

28-34 A row of four houses, each story bay. This group designed in the Italianate style is later than those buildings near the top, or at the very bottom of the hill. Built in 3rd quarter of 19th c. V A

laid
Mt. Vernon Street was out by the 1840s, and a number of double houses were built by 1848 in the upper section of the street. ⁺ Soon after several more houses were built in the same Greek Revival style, creating a consistent and attractive area, rivalling anything on the North Slope of Beacon Hill. This street would be well worth preserving against the decline of the near-by areas. ⁺ This land was owned by E. Bneed and was divided and built upon in 1846 (F. 92) and by 1874 nearly all completed

1,3,5, MT VERNON STREET

A series of three frame rowhouses, each — story, and — built in Q/R period. Although not a particularly notable bldg it adds to the consistency of the street. w/m

7-9 MT VERNON STREET

A double brick house, two-story, three-bay each, built in Q/R style, probably in late 1840s. This building and its immediate neighbors near the brow of the hill, appear to be built soon after the street was laid out, and define the character of the bldgs. V/A

11-13 MT. VERNON STREET

A double brick house, two-story, three-bay each, is contemporaneous with its neighbor and similarly contributes to the general effect of area.

V/A

15-23 MT VERNON STREET

A series of five brick rowhouses, each — story, and — bay. This row was built by the early 1850s in the late Q/R style and is reminiscent of the North Slope. V/A.

8-10 Mt. Vernon STREET

brick
Across the street, a double house, three-story, three-bay each. Again built ^{dur}ing the 1840s, this house contributes to general effect. V/A.

12-14 MT VERNON STREET

A double brick house, three-story, three-bay each. + Comprising the same appearance and contribution as the above. W/A

14 1/2 MT VERNON STREET

16- 18 MT VERNON STREET

A double wooden house, two-story, -bay, built
by end ^{of the} 1840s

25-27 } Two double houses,
29-31 } built by end of 1840s.

V/A

V/A

Tremont Street

p. 32.

in 1848 known as Stark St

Tremont Street, which runs into the north east side of

Monument Square and then into Bartlett Street, follows along
ridge

the spine of Breed's Hill, with the land to the east sloping

down toward the Mystic River area. Tremont Street already

existed by the time the Monument was finished, and had a few

buildings lining the sides, ^{near the top of the hill} which ~~can be identified by their Greek Revival style~~ ^{can be identified by their Greek Revival style} (ie. 12, 16, 17, 3, 18, 20)

but their general impression has been greatly diluted by the

advent of the later 19th c. tenement houses.

19-21 TREMONT STREET

A story, -bay brick building placed end to
early G. R.

street. This building is particularly curious as ~~it may possibly~~

Prospect Street which runs into Tremont St has no buildings of
architectural significance, having lost the Frothingham Schoolhouse.

~~go back to late Federal or Early Greek Revival Period. The~~
 to brickwork as headers every seventh row, which was used before
 the common bond brick work which came in during the Greek
 Revival Period. It appears to have ^{high} ~~been altered from a house~~
~~ing the street to one placed at right angles.~~
~~building, a schoolhouse perhaps, rather than a residence.~~

VALUABLE TO AREA

Concord Street

As is the case with most of these street surrounding
 Monument Square, the first official record of this street
 occurs in 1839. By the end of the 1840s, the street was lined
 in the upper part with large double ^{or rows of} wooden, Greek Revival
 which still serve today ⁽²⁻¹⁰⁻⁵⁰⁾ run along
 houses. Although it used to ~~mark~~ the north west side of Monument
 Square, it now only extends from the northern corner of the
 square for one block to Bunker Hill Street.

2-10 CONCORD STREET

A row of double Greek Revival houses, each two-story,
 and six-bay, with a double entrance in the center. Built before
 1848, this repetitive row is highlighted by the cupola on the
 corner building, #2-4. The buildings further down the hill ⁽¹⁴⁻²⁰⁾
⁽¹¹⁻²¹⁾
 were built in the same style, but have undergone alterations.

VALUABLE TO AREA

Cedar Street

18x22 Alley laid out in 1839, this street runs between High
 and Bartlett Street, parallel to the south west side of Monument
 It appears on a Directory map of 1854, but not 1852, and is not listed until 1858. Directory.
 Square and connected to it by the short Laurel Street. Brick

row houses line the section from High to Laurel Street and
 are on the whole, much smaller in scale than the more elegant

#5-15 were built after 1874,
 square.

18-22 CEDAR STREET

Three, bowfronted brick rowhouses, each three-story, three-bay, situated at the foot of Laurel Street. Built ^{during} ~~around~~ the 1850s, these houses are visible from the monument, effectively framed by the corner buildings on Monument Square.

E
VALUABLE TO MINE AREA

Laurel Street

Laurel Street appears on map of 1854 Directory + is first listed in 1855. It runs from the middle of the north side of Monument Square to Cedar St.
1-2 Laurel Street

Matching bowfronts to 18-22 Cedar Street.
These were the first houses built on this street, V/A
Sometime during the 1850s.

The Charlestown Navy Yard

The Charlestown Navy Yard came into existence in 1800, when the U.S. legislature authorized the purchase of land for that use. Its location along the south east waterline of the Charlestown peninsula was particularly advantageous to the needs and demands of the Navy, as it offered a well-protected site in a deep water area. In 1803, one brick building was constructed and by 1809 the Commandant's house was completed. Then in 1827-1834, the dry dock built of hewn granite was designed and constructed by Laommi Baldwin. In 1836, a ropewalk was constructed 1,360 feet long, and since then many new buildings have been added.

NAVY YARD. COMMANDANT'S HOUSE.

A -story, three-bay Federal brick freestanding mansion. Built around 1809, it now stands unfortunately right next to the Elevated Highway, and is presently endangered by the intent to put a ramp on the block. Although the house itself has been quite severely altered, some of the Federal characteristics have survived, such as the fanlight window and the proportions. ~~of the~~ and it would be a loss to ~~black~~. Both the City's history + WORTHY-OF-MENTION V/A
the Navy's, should it be taken down, instead of moved.

Hayes Square-Intersection of Vine, Corey and Moulton Streets

Hayes Square is located in the the north east section of the Charlestown peninsula, located in between the elevated Mystic River Bridge Expressway, and the housing development. The square, although not located in a particularly significant area, either architecturally or historically, is marked by the third Catholic church building in the town.

HAYES SQUARE. ST. CATHERINE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

A brick, Romanesque Revival Church, with stone trim, built in 1887 by the Catholic Church after the community had outgrown St. Francis de Sales on top of Bunker Hill.

WORTHY OF MENTION

Warren-High-Soley-Salem street area.

This area is the last, that is rich in an architectural heritage. Houses of churches dating from the nineteenth century are plentiful enough ^{and are similar enough} to merit discussion as a group rather than singularly. Unlike the other sections already dealt with, this one has no unifying open square, about which the ~~area~~ ^{streets and buildings} is are oriented. In fact it is not organized at all, but enough Federal houses, Greek Revival rowhouses, and Gothic Revival public buildings ^{it} are spotted about to give an early 19th c. flavor. The styles indicate that ~~the~~ building first occurred on the lower side of Breed's, ^{Hill} Between High and Warren-Main Streets; and then later moved to the section north of High Street. Particularly noteworthy in this area, are the handsome, freestanding Federal houses, scattered, but situated mostly on Warren, ~~Cyodis~~ and Salem Streets. This area contained five churches, including St. Mary's, discussed under the Winthrop Square area; The Universalist Church ~~xxxxxxx~~, built in 1811 in Church Court just off Thompson Square ^{which has} ~~and has~~ since ^{been} ~~been~~ torn down; the Second Congregational Church built in 1818 at the corner of Main, Green and Wood Streets which has been altered beyond recognition (only the Flemish-bond brick/walls ^{side} reveal its early date) / the Methodist Church on High Street, ^{rebuilt in 1867} now a Girls' Club, and the Winthrop Church ^{on Green Street} built in 1847 and still ^{standing.} ~~used as a church?~~

The area still is essentially residential, despite the commercial growth along Warren and Main Streets, ~~xxxxxxx~~ ^{centered} in Thompson Square. The survey is set up in the following order: down Warren Street to Thompson Square, then the north-south streets starting at Soley Street, to Monument Avenue, Pleasant Street,

Warren Street, or formerly Back Street, seems to have existed in the very first years of the Charlestown colony., in 1638. It was laid out again after the destruction of the town By fire in 1776, and it extends from City Square to Thompson Square, exactly the same route as Main Street, but it makes a wider arc. There are four early Federal houses clustered around the intersection of Pleasant Street, two have been restored, and two have not although they offer an excellent opportunity.

78 WARREN STREET

A two-story, five-bay, Greek Revival house, placed gable end to street. Now somewhat isolated from its neighbors, this house well reflects the Greek Revival style by the use of an entablature under the roof, and finely executed, classical doorway. Warren Street between Monument Street and Thompson Square, fortunately still has a number of dwellings from the first half of the 19th c. and their collective presence increases the value of each one.

VALUABLE TO AREA

77 & 79 WARREN STREET

Across the street, a double three-story, three-bay, wooden Greek Revival house. The obvious factor involved is that the right side, # 77, has been restored; clapboards, paint and shutters replace the tar shingle facade of # 79.

VALUABLE TO AREA

81 WARREN Street

A three-story, Five-bay, coapboard Federal house, placed at right angles to the street. This Federal home, restored by

a private citizen, stands out not only as an excellent representative of early 19th c. architecture, but also as an important example of the potentialities in historic restoration. Behind the owner has similarly put into good condition a building of a slightly later date, and has made a pleasant brick court connecting the two houses. VALUABLE TO CITY

85 WARREN STREET

Next door stands a five-bay, three-story, clapboard Federal mansion. Although the first floor has been altered, the structure itself, having the typical Federal features of hipped roof and diminutive third story windows, offers a valuable opportunity to be restored, as its neighbor has been.

VALUABLE TO AREA

88 ~~WARREN~~ WARREN STREET and 9 Thompson Street

A double Federal house, set back to back, at the corner of Thompson Street and Warren Street. Each a three-story, five-bay structure, this old house has fallen into poor condition yet its exterior facade still retains a genuine Federal appearance. Its location in this Federal cluster, justifies and endorses its restoration. VALUABLE TO AREA

Soley ~~Remnant~~ Street

Soley Street runs from Warren Street up hill into Monument Square. It was named in 1850 from Henley's Lane at which time wooden buildings lined the upper eastern section of the street. Within the next two decades were erected a long row of small, two-story brick houses with mansard roof, which (22-36) With the earlier buildings, ^{they} form an attractive area, although ^{tenement} some later wooden houses have been added. (12-18)

Monument Ave.

Monument Ave. ^{was} ~~was~~ laid out officially and named in 1852.

wall of

The congruity of the brick rowhouses, the width of the street,
straight directly all
and the main axis/to the Bunker Hill Monument, ~~xxxxx~~ contribute
to make this a dramatic entranceway to the historic monument.

It is interesting to note that all four sides of Monument Square
are bisected by a direct axis to the monument itself, but
Monument Avenue is by far the most successful and impressive.

& 22-60

15-53/MONUMENT AVENUE

Three-story, three-bay, brick row houses. The facades
are flat except for occasional addition of an oriel window,
and all are placed directly on the sidewalk, forming a continuous
wall of brick, penetrated only by windows and doors. The same
effect is achieved on the ~~xxxx~~ ^{both} side of the street ~~xxxx~~, and
the observer, with a viewpoint at the bottom of the hill, has
an accentuated one point perspective ^{leading to} with the tall white obelisk
as the central focal point. (The longitudinal axis becomes fully
developed in the grid plan for the new Back Bay.) Individually
buildings are not especially important, ^{varying in style from Greek, Italian, Georgian Revival} but as continuous, ^{styles}
unbroken rows, ~~they raise their value~~ ^{is raised}.

VALUABLE TO AREA

Pleasant Street

Pleasant street is considerably older than the two previously
discussed. It was conveyed in part in 1793 to the city, and
by 1823 it was officially accepted. As a whole, the street
does not have any architectural significance; only one building
distinguishes itself.

21 PLEASANT STREET

A two-story, four-bay, wooden Federal house, situated
end to street. Its early post-revolutionary date is revealed by
the gambrel roof, and diminutive scale, and probably its close

to the original laying out of the street in 1793. Fortunately this small house is in the hands of the same owner who has restored the adjacent Federal buildings at #81 Warren Street. Its merit comes from its location in this Federal cluster, as well as th infrequent survival of the gambrel roof type.

VALUABLE TO APEA

Cordis Street

Cordis Street was laid out in 1799 and officially accepted in 1817. Cordis Street lays claim to three excellent survivors of the Federal period, built shortly after the street was first laid out, and runs into a fourth at the bottom of the hill, #88 Warren Street. (see under Warren Street) In addition, on Crodis steet appears the handsomest prôduct of the Greek Revival style in Charlestown, the Swallow Mansion at 33 Cordis Street. Although the street is otherwise uninteresting, except perhaps for the unobtrusive, Greek Revivals at 23 and 27, the presence of these four important buildings, located quite close to êch other, alone make this street an invaluable one.

16 CORDIS STREET

A three-story, five-bay, clapboard Federal house, sit~~x~~ing at right angles to the street, and extended in the rear in a series of wings. ts early 19th c. date is immediately evident in the proportions of height and width, the protruding window enframements, and the diminutive third story. The striking feature in this complex, is the yard of garden court located at the side of the house and fitted within the L shape of the wings. Although late 19th c. buildings extend from hwere down to Warren Street, the ol^d Federal house at the corner of Thompson and Warren

Streets is clearly in view, as is the Getthell house right across the street. The back of this house formerly looked out on to the First Universalist Church, built in 1811 in Church Court.

VALUABLE TO CITY

21 CORDIS STREET

The Getchell House. A three-story, five-bay, freestanding Federal brick house, situated at the corner of Cordis Street and Cordis Street avenue. A particularly, well preserved brick mansion, it was built by in the early years of the 19th c.,
xxradxinxbyxNathanxWebb(1845xthenx#x10)xandxEwinxRxxAdams(# and lived in in the mid-19th c. by Abraham Andrews, teacher, and later by the Getthell family, after whom it is named. Typical of its period are the uses of diminutive third story windows, flemish-bond brick, and the fanlight doorway.

VALUABLE TO CITY

23 & 25 CORDIS STREET

Two-story, five-bay, Greek Revival wooden house with end to street. It now serves as a two family house, and like its neighbor, 27, is not an outstanding architectural work, but rather provides a characteristic setting for #33.

27 CORDIS STREET

VALUABLE TO AREA

A two-story, five bay wooden Greek Revival house. Although not particularly important, it is a freestanding house which dates back to the first half of the 19th c.

VALUABLE TO AREA

32 CORDIS STREET

A three-story, five-bay, freestanding Federal house, with original ironwork, and placed gable end to street. This Federal mansion, originally clapboard, but presently covered over, is situated with its back to the hill, looking out over

a spacious and pleasant yard, which is unusual for the present day city life. Built around 1801, it has been the home of the Hyde, Adams, and Lincoln families. When restored, this building will rise in evaluation. VALUABLE TO AREA

33 CORDIS STREET

A two-story, three-bay, Greek Revival, freestanding wooden house. This particular mansion may well view for the most monumental design in residential architecture in Charlestown, and certainly is the best example of full blown Greek Revival style. The temple front with pediment, entablature and open portico of giant, ionic, fluted columns sharply contrasts with the mocest closed facades of the Federal period, or the repetitive, octagonal bay, wooden row houses of the late 19th c. It is strikingly similar to the ^{Charlestown} Female Seminary, a private girls school founded in 1833 "to furnish facilities for a complete Female Education, Moral, Intellectual, and Physical" located on the corner of Union and Lawrence Streets. Why this building was a copy and what the date has not been fully discovered as yet. It goes under the name of the Swallo^W Mansion named after the family who lived in it after the middle of the 19th c.

VALUABLE TO CITY

Thompson Square

Thompson Square is formed by the intersection of Main Street and Warren Street, or Back Street, and thus has existed since before Post-Revolutionary days. Thompson Square was enlarged in the third quarter of the 19th c., by the removal of a long narrow, two-story wooden building, known as Crafts' Corner, and reputed to be the first building erected after the Revolution (Cutter, 1875). In 1874, the small houses facing this intersection next to Church Court were sold and shortly replaced by the

Charlestown Savings Bank, transforming this area into a commercial center.

THOMPSON SQUARE.

Charlestown Savings Bank. A four-story, eight-bay, granite faced brick block with high mansard roof. The large, Gothic Revival structure absolutely dominates the square, not only by its size, but also by its flamboyant architectural details which leave no surface undecorated. The Five Cent Savings Bank bought this lot in 1874, which then had several old wooden houses, that flanked the entrance to the First Universalist Church and built this commanding structure, which serves as the focal point of the Square.

VALUABLE TO CITY

Dexter Row

Dexter Row is the name given a short section of Warren Street after Thompson Square ^{to} ~~extending to~~ Green Street. It applies only to a row of brick houses, originally six and now only three, and ~~probably~~ takes its name from the near by Samuel Dexter Mansion at 14 Green Street which was a huge and handsome estate at the turn of the 18th c.

2,3,4 DEXTER ROW

Next to the Charlestown Savings Bank is situated a row of three-story, three-bay brick ^{rowhouses} ~~buildings~~; the three which have survived out of the original six. These attractive, Greek Revival houses, with large granite basements, and wrought iron railings were built in 1836, and even today have retained their handsome appearance. In their day, they were considered one of the most fashionable places ^{to live} in town, and attracted several doctors to make their residence there.

Valuable to Area

Green Street

Green Street was laid out as early as 1799 between Main Street and High Street. Even after the Revolution this area was pasture land until 1791 when Samuel Dexter bought the tract and built his elaborate mansion. Across the street was located the Hunnewell house which belonged to the historian of Charlestown, James F. Hunnewell. It has since been replaced by the large brick building of the Boys' Club, erected in 1917. The only other major building on this street is the Winthrop Congregational Church, built in 1849 and still extant. This street has an unusually small amount of residential buildings on it.

14 GREEN STREET

Samuel Dexter Mansion. A large, square, two-story, wooden Federal house. In 1791, Samuel Dexter, later to become Secretary of War and of the Treasury under John Quincy Adams, bought a large estate, extending from Main Street to High Street, and soon thereafter erected his house, originally with a low roof, and laid out an extremely elaborate grounds, with various types of gardens and walks. It was considered in its day "the handsomest, and perhaps largest, early post-revolutionary place on the peninsula". (H.145) Sold by Dexter in 1800, this mansion has been able to survive the passage of time, with relatively little harm. In 1887, a wing was added, the roof was raised which gives it a somewhat distorted appearance today. The surrounding estate was reduced by the sale of lots for Dexter Row in 1836 and for the Winthrop Congregation church in 1847, and for a several places on High Street in 1850. It is one of the most important residences to come down to the present day, and the most recent attempts to condemn it can be considered only highly unfortunate. Ironically, the plaque on the exterior wall placed in 1920

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states that the building was given to Charlestown as a Memorial to the Veterans "with the hope that it may be preserved as a sacred heirloom by the future defenders of the Republic".

VALUABLE TO CITY

GREEN STREET.

Winthrop Congregational Church. A brick, church, built in 1849. The structure is butressed throughout and it originally crowned with a wooden steeple which has not survived.

VALUABLE TO AREA

1-5 GREEN STREET, 169-179 MAIN STREET, and 3 WOOD STREET.

On this lot bounded on three sides by streets, stands a large brick building which appears to be used for commercial purposes. In 1920s it served as a theater. It is surprising to learn that this building originally was the Harvard church, of the Second Congregational or Unitarian Society, and built in 1819. The exterior was plain but adorned with a handsome wooden steeple modeled after Wren. Apparently there was little emphasis on the ~~typical~~ ^{standard} ecclesiastical church type, which may account for its later changes. Today, there is little evidences of the original church, except the side brick walls show the Flemish-bond brickwork, characteristic of the Federal Period, and the two rows of ~~arched~~ windows, which have since been filled in. Unfortunately the facade reveals no trace of its former appearance, and at the moment there doesn't seem to be any realistic possibilities for restoration, and its present appearance is not worthy of a rating.

Wood Street

Wood Street runs from Main to High Streets, and was officially accepted in 1820. It may have been laid out for the Harvard Church, which was completed in 1819. Besides the corner building the architecture consists only of the back side of the Boys' Club and two-three story wooden tar shingle houses.

A three-story (presently). seven-bay, brick building, with a recessed arched entranceway; typical of the Federal period. Although probably built in the first quarter of the 19th c. this building has undergone substantial alterations.

High Street

High Street in 1799 ran from Training-Field to Baptist Meeting House Green Street, and by 1831 had been extended to its length at Walker Street. High Street now doesn't begin until the western corner of Monument Square. There is little of particular importance architecturally, but the two most noticeable buildings are recorded.

58 HIGH STREET

A two-story, three-bay, wooden house, with curved mansard roof. Situated on the corner of Wood and High Streets, it occupies a sizable lot, which by the third quarter of the 19th c. in a crowded area, was fairly uncommon.

WORTHY OF MENTION

HIGH STREET (opposite Elm Street)

The brick edifice, presently the Girls' Club, was built in 1867 for the Trinity Methodist Church, after their wooden church had burned that year. The architect, S.J.F. Thayer, built a structure of brick and took many other precautions against fire. Although it has lost its spire, it still presents a distinctly ecclesiastical appearance, perhaps because of its Gothic Revival style.

WORTHY OF MENTION

School Street

School Street lay claim to a handsome early Federal mansion, resembling the Dexter Mansion, built by James Harrison in the first years of 19th c. Somewhat Later, Loanni Baldwin, the Naval engineer of the ~~Kerr~~ Dry Docks, lived there and for years after it has been known as the Baldwin House. To the great misfortune of the area, only this year it was torn down. This incident exemplifies well the need to generate understanding and appreciation of the architecturally and historically significant buildings still left in the Boston Area.

Salem Street

Salem Street was accepted as early as 1804, as the road which led from Main street, opposite Capt Ehipps, to steps of the Baptist Meeting House, built in 1801 where now the apartment house, The Salem, marks the site. Three houses, however, date back to the early ^{years} ~~days~~ of 19th c., and form a pleasant complex, as #81 Warren Street does.

2-4 SALEM STREET

A two-story, -bay, brick house, entered originally on the Main Street facade. Although fairly run down due probably to its location next to the elevated train, it is not beyond repair and its late Federal or early Greek Revival date as well as its location next to substantial wooden Federal house, makes it worthy of restoration.

WORTHY OF MENTION

8 SALEM STREET

A three-story, five-bay, Federal clapboard house with brick ends. Its early date is evident in the tall, thin proportions of the structure, the diminutive third story windows, and the hipped roof. The only exterior alteration occurred on the front entrance.



entrance where the architectural detail has been stripped off. When this house and surrounding important buildings have been restored, the value of all of them would be raised.

VALUABLE TO AREA

Salem Street Avenue

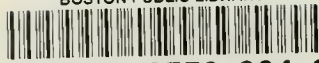
Salem Street Avenue serves as an L-shaped connection to High Street appears on a plan as early as 1810, although not accepted until 1834 and named in 1869.

2 SALEM STREET AVENUE

A two-story, five-bay, Federal clapboard house, This little house with pitched roof, stands right around the corner from 8 SALEM STREET and together, they form an attractive Federal cluster well worthy of preservation

VALUABLE TO AREA

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Charlestown-Preliminary Report

CHARLESTOWN PROJECT

DATE	ISSUED TO
Feb 3 70	John A. Wilde
4/23/71	Richard J. Salini P.C.
4/29/71	V. Kayser

